

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 01478 261454Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 XMB-02 MCE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08
/094 W

-----125937 270254Z /20

R 261441Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8207

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 01478

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, US
SUBJECT: MALTESE REQUEST FOR MARSAXLOKK LOAN

REF: VALLETTA 1419

1. I SAW FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA AGAIN ON MAY 25 TO REITERATE THE POSITION I HAD CONVEYED TO HIM EARLIER ON MARSAXLOKK LOAN REQUEST. I DID THIS BECAUSE WE WERE INFORMED MAY 24 BY BRITISH AND ITALIANS HERE THAT MINTOFF HAD SPOKEN (SEPARATELY) TO HEAD OF ITALIAN MILITARY MISSION HERE AND TO VISITING BRITISH NAVY MINISTER IN TERMS OF LOAN ALREADY BEING AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT.

2. I TOLD ABELA THAT DESPITE WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM EARLIER ABOUT NO DECISION HAVING BEEN TAKEN, WE NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOM AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WAS SPEAKING OF THE LOAN AS ALREADY A COMMITMENT FROM THE USG. I TOLD ABELA I NEEDED TO BE ASSURED THAT WHAT I HAD SAID HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE PRIME MINISTER. I REITERATED OUR POSITION:
1) NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN; 2) NO DECISION WAS POSSIBLE IN ANY EVENT UNTIL WE HAD A LIST OF ITEMS IN WHICH THE GOM IS INTERESTED FOR MARSAXLOKK; AND 3) THAT FOR BOTH REASONS OF AVAILABILITY OF SUCH EQUIPMENT UNDER THE EP PROGRAM AND THE NATURE OF OUR OWN AID LEGISLATION THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 01478 261454Z

OUTLOOK FOR A CONCESSIONAL LOAN WAS UNFAVORABLE.

3. I ALSO RECALLED WHAT I HAD SAID AT THE OUTSET OF THE FELICE EXERCISE TO MINTOFF ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID UNDUE EXPECTATIONS. I NOTED THE POSITION TAKEN BY NEWSOM TO FELICE ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (STATE 102878), A POSITION WE HAD REITERATED WITH FELICE ON HIS RETURN AND WITH

ABELA EARLIER IN THE WEEK. I SAID THAT IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS I WAS TROUBLED BY WHAT I WAS HEARING, SUGGESTING UNDUE EXPECTATIONS THAT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR RELATIONS.

4. ABELA'S RESPONSE WAS TO SAY THAT HE HAD INDEED INFORMED MINTOFF OF OUR CONVERSATION. I COULD BE ASSURED THAT OUR POSITION WAS UNDERSTOOD. BUT ABELA WENT ON TO SAY THE PRIME MINISTER'S REACTION HAD BEEN TO ASK WHETHER I HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE GOM'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER; NAMELY, THAT THE PM AND THE GOM COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT A PLEDGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE MARSAXLOKK REQUEST, VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE THRUST OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AS A WHOLE, COULD RESULT IN A REJECTION OF THE REQUEST. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, SAID ABELA, THE GOM'S POSITION WAS "WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY."

5. I TOLD ABELA THAT THERE WAS OF COURSE GOOD WILL. THAT WAS CLEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. BUT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS WHAT THE LETTER SAID ABOUT OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP AND ABOUT OUR POSTURE TOWARD THE EUROPEAN DIALOGUE, NOT WHETHER WE COULD BE RESPONSIVE TO A REQUEST IN AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE BOTH PRACTICAL (AVAILABILITY) AND LEGISLATIVE OBSTACLES. OUR RELATIONSHIP SHOULD NOT STAND OR FALL ON OUR REACTION TO THAT REQUEST AND IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 01478 261454Z

IMPORTANT THAT BOTH OF US UNDERSTAND THAT. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET01478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-0075
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaajlz.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6743895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 VALLETTA 1419
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2538833
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALTESE REQUEST FOR MARSAXLOKK LOAN
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6743895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014